

ELECTRICITY AS A PROTECTION of firearms will be rendered nugatory

Switzerland Show That Bullets May Be Deflected From Their A LAMP WICK MADE OF CLAY. Course By Electricity as Much as 75 Feet at 275 Yards, Rendering It Possible Thus to Shield a Body of Troops or a War Vessel From the Missiles of the E nemy.

Some experiments recently made in Switzerland open up an entirely novel field of military operations, and may lead to developments in the way of defensive tactics of an utterly revolutionary character. The experiments show the possibility that electricity may in future beutilized to deflect bullets from their intended course, thus rendering the aim of the most expert marksman altogether ineffectual.

The discovery of this vastly important power of electricity over a flying missile was made quite by accident. The committee of the federal shooting association of Switzerland, while target shooting at Winterthur, noticed that targets at the left side of the range received a majority of bullets to the left of the bullseye, while the reverse was the case on the other side of the range. Some quick-witted member of the com-mittee suggested that this apparent de-flection of the missiles might be due to the electric telephone wires which chanced to be strug on either side of the range. The matter was brought to the range. The matter was brought to the attention of the federal experi-mental committee, who found that all projectiles that had been deflected from their course were magnetized.

The theory of electrical action being thus supported, experiments were un-

The theory of electrical section where un-dertaken to put the question to a final test. At he range near Shun, where no electric wires were in the way, four ex-perimental wires, each 18 mm in diperimental wires, each 18 mm in diameter, were strung parallel to the line of fire, and 125 feet away from it. Paper screens were then fixed at intervals of 20 feet along the range, to indicate the exact course of the bullets. An electric current of \$,000 volts being sent through the wires, its influence was unmistakably shown by the course of the bullets fixed from the military rifles. At 275 yards the deflection of the bullet from the straight course was no less than 75 feet, "the trajectory, as marked by the paper screens, showing a very remarkable curve toward the wires.

whres.

When a trial was made with a Japanese rifle, the invention of Colonel Yamsgate, which throws a very slender builet, the results were even more startling, as the "minute bullet went straight for the wires, broke two insulators, and followed along the course of the electric wires, finally wearing out its energy with the friction."

The effect thus being more pro-nounced with small missites, it was presumed that a comon hall would be unaffected. But a trial proved this asguaffected. But a trial proved this as-sumption a mistake, for on a 2,000-yard range, the wires being strung only for a distance of 200 yards in front of the target, and at the same lateral distance as before, the cannon ball was deflected no less than 14 degrees. With shrapnel (an explosive shell filled with musket balls), the effects were even more curious, as the projectile carrying the fuse made of non-magcarrying the fuse made of non-mag-netic metal was completely detached, while the body was attracted by the current, "the bullets, after the shell Lorst, showing such extraordinary variis that all accuracy of fire was to-done away with." e general result of the entire

ations that all accuracy of fire was totaily done away with."

The general result of the entire
series of experiments was to show that,
as might be expected, the deflecting
power of the current was proportionately less when large missiles were
used, and varied also with the velocity
of the missiles. The conclusion was
reached that it would be feasible to
protect an entire section of troops
from bostile rifle fire at a distance of
30 yards by means of an electric current generated by a dynamo or accumulator at one side; and that at 500
to 1400 yards even artillery would be
thus rendered harmless.

It seems doubtfut however, whether
such an application of the current as
that here suggested could ever be of
use in actual warfare, unless under
very unusual circumstances, since lines
strang at one side of a section would
be too far removed from the bullets on
the other side to sufficiently influence
their flight. What apparently might
be done, however, would be to have
the wires strung along the earth between the opnosing forces, in order to
ground the builets. The wires being
strung near the line to be protected
would affect the ourtially spent balls of
the enemy more than those of the protected solidiers, and the latter could, in
addition, make allowance for the current in alming. Should the enemy see
that their shots are falling low, and
make allowance for the deflection, the
current of electricity could, of course,
he varied or altogether shut off for the
moment, thus releasing the projectiles,
and allowing them to fly harmlessly
overhead, the change la current being
from time to time announced to the
probected line by signals, that their
own fire might be governed accordingly. By repeated variations of the current it is evident that the aim of the
most expert markemen would be made
a matter of mere spesswork. It would
indeed be a strang sight should it
come to pass that an enemy might
stand out in an open field and be protected from the seems to be within the
possibilities. Mark Twain imagin

of the romancer.

Perhaps the most interesting suggestion of the Swiss experiments, however, is the new element they introduce into the old controversy of projectiles vs. armor plate. Just at the moment the projectiles were in the lead, for the Johnson 100-pound ball, protected by a cap of soft steel, had penetrated ten inches of nickel steel, notwithstanding its Harveyized surface of diamond-like hardness. But now the Swiss experiments make it clear that the difficulty in future may not be so much to penetrate armor, as to hit it at all. Suppose an unarmored cruiser, built for speed, were to make a running fight with a warship, might she not pay out electric cables in her wake, and thus protect herself by deflecting the missiles of her pursuer, while at the same time bringing her own guns to bear with telling effect?

Even more easily a fort might be thus protected, for here the dirigible fish-like torpedo bonts already in use (which are directed in their course by means of electricity operated from the shore) might be made to carry the deflecting current in any desired direction. So it may chance that the battle between armor and projectile will be wen by the armor in an altogether unexpected way. Should the Swiss experiments be verified and extended, it seems not unlikely that all the recent advances in the long-range efficiency

IN BATTLE.

by the nineteenth century wizard, electricity. Certain it seems that some utterly novel problems wil be presented to the students of scientific warfare.

One That Does Not Need to Be Trimmed.

A remarkable lamp wick has been invented which is made entirely of clay. This sounds paradoxical, for clay is not This sounds paradoxical, for clay is not a substance that is very susceptible to heat, yet there is no other material in the wick except clay, and it burns in a brighter flame and gives a steadier light than any cotton wick. This new wick is made of potter's clay, and is perforated by very minute holes, up through which the oil passes by capillary attraction. In shape it is similar to the old cotton affair—flat or cylindrical. When in a plastic state filaments of the old cotton affair—flat or cylindrical. When in a plastic state, filaments of unspun vegetable fibre are mixed into the clay, and when this wick is burnt or "fired," it hardens, while the vegetable matter is consumed, leaving numerous small holes up through which the oil readily passes. This wick does not need to be trimmed. When made it is filed off square at the top, so as to cause it give a well formed flame. it is filed off square at the top, so as to cause it give a well formed flame. As the oil has a perfect passage up to the flame, it cannot emit an odor. Its inventors claim that its consumption of oil is but one-third that of the cotton while producing the same amount

CONDITION OF THE EARTH'S IN-

interior. It is true that some physicists as Hopkins, had reasoned out a proba-bility that this crust, to withstand the strains that were imposed upon it, could not have a thickness of much less than 500 or 1,000 miles, but his less than 300 or 1,000 miles, but his arguments had comparatively little effect toward dispelling the nations that had so long existed. At the present time, after the brilliant mathematical exoosition of Sir William Thomnson, (Lord Kelvin), of Professor George Darwin, of Professor Simon Newcomb and of Mr. Rudski, this doctrine of terrestrial fluidity is hardly longer taught. A few there are who yet linger with the old theory, but the great mass of educators and their punlls—except in regions where text-books bear the impress of manufacture in the merital power of a quarter of a century ago, or more—have settled down to the comfortable conviction that our planet is as solid or rigid as a ball of glass or steel—in fact, twice as rigid accoording to the determinations of M. Rudski. The doctrine of solidity does not, however, involve the assumption of equal, but of average, rigidity. Again, it is not implied that because the earth is virtually solid to the core local areas. arguments had comparatively little ef-fect toward dispelling the nations that had so long existed. At the present time, after the brilliant mathematical

lar at our

of liquidity or fluidity do not exist. It is upon these "nockets" or areas of molten material, theoretically assumed to exist, that the geologist largely relies to harmonize his facts (concerning earth movements, etc.), with those of the mathematical physic; they are to the mathematical physic; they are to the entire mass of the earth what the air snaces are to a block of ice. As-suming the virtual solidity of the earth, the interesting question sug-gests itself: What is the nature of the gests itself: What is the nature of the rock masses that compose the interior? An answer to this question is largely one of inference only. We know the rocks of the exterior, and we know the rocks of the interior to a limited depth. Can our knowledge of these rocks be made to answer the inquiry as to the nature of the rocks of the deep interior?

terior?

It is, perhaps, too early to give reply to this inquiry, but the interesting fact has long been known that the average density of the earth is nearly or quite double that of ordinary rock, such as density of the earth is nearly or quite double that of ordinary rock, such as limestone, sundstone or stranite, and it is assumed that its greatest density cannot easily be less than from five to ten times that of its superficial materials, or 20 times the density of water. This being so, the rocks of the interior are either compressed to a prodigious degree to give them this weight, or they are of a different character from those of the surface, possibly containing great quantities of metal. In relation to this inquiry a knowledge of the exact density of the earth becomes of first importance, and it is of special interest to note that an extended series of recalculations, made by Richarz and Kriger-Menzel, extending back to the year 1884, and with final results recently announced to the Berlin academy of sciences, confirm within a very narrow margin the earlier results obtained, with less refined instruments, by Chvendish and his successors, through a period of upwards of 100 years; these latest determinations fix the density of our planet at 5.595, (compared with water.)

A. HEILPRIN. A. HEILPRIN.

DRUNKENNESS AMONG INSECTS.

Recent Observation Among Scientists

The question has frequently been asked, by laymen as well as scientists, asked, by laymen as well as scientists, to what extent, if any, are the habits and sensations that we associate with the higher animals, especially man, a part of the being also of the lower organisms. In the earlier days of the cultivation of natural history, and one need hardly go farther back than 50 years, the distinction between man and other animated organisms was considered to be so finely and absolutely marked as to lead to an almost complete divorce of his sensations and perceptions, the condition of a fluid or molten mass, the volcanic manifestations exhibited on the surface, the rapid rise of temperature that is found as we proceed from the exterior to the interior, and other considerations pointing almost irresistibly to such a conclusion. Indeed, a common belief was that all that was solid centered in a crust of some 50-100 miles' thickness, "floating" on the flery magma of the interior. It is true that some physicists as Hopkins, had reasoned out a probability that this crust, to withstand the strains that were imposed upon it, sould be for the great revolution in thought which followed, within a few to what extent, if any, are the habits they did before the great revolution in thought which followed, within a few years, the appearance (in 1859) of Mr. Darwin's epoch-making work, "The Origin of Species." From that time on an almost endless series of facts have

the personal habits of animals has just been made by M. J. Lloyd Williams, and curiously enough it deals with the "drunken habits" of certain bumble bees. He shows that these insects, in frequenting the crowded flowers of some of the composites, as cardius and centaurea, and of a species of scablosa, become infected with their honey to a state of intoxication by rolling on the back, striking the legs honey to a state of intexication by relling on the back, striking the legs wildiy in the air and general helplessness. The bees rapidly recover from these effects, but, strange though it may appear, they eagerly renew the debauch. One individual, however, as Mr. Williams informs us, manifested the next morning a praiseworthy remorae and disgust, raising its head and forelegs as high as it could above the plants, then precipitately hurrying away as soon as released." The most delicate species was a newter bee of the species bombus lapidarius.

A. HEILPRIN.

PORTRAITS IN DUST.

Wonderful Pictures Composed Entirely of Dust Deposited by Blec-

on a pane of glass. It is not the handi-work of man. It is a natural phenom-enon. It formed itself out of the flying dust of the atmosphere, which adhered to the glass in varying thicknesses until a perfect likeness of a living hu-man being was produced. It required eight years for completion, yet so deli-cate is it that all this wonderful procate is if that all this wonderful pro-duction of nature may be wiped away and totally obliterated by the simple rubbing of the finger tip. Many theories have been advanced explain-ing the cause of the formation. Several leading scientists have concluded that it was caused by atmospheric elec-tricity, generated by the action of the sun rays shining against an old por-trait.

trait.

It is probable that many persons have possessed dust portraits for years without being aware of the fact. It is also possible for any person to make dust pictures, not as elaborate as the one mentioned above, perhaps, but fairly good representations, nevertheless. The science of dustography, as it might aptly be called, owes its discovery to an accident. W. J. Hammer, the electrical expert, happened one day to observe a photographer remove an old photograph from its frame. When the pane of glass which had rested in the pane of glass which had rested in front of the picture was held up to the light, it was found that a photograph, or tracing, the same in every respect as the original picture, was printed in dust on the glass. The phenomenon as the original picture, was pinted and dust on the glass. The phenomenon was not due to the pressure of the old photograph on the glass, for the two had been separated by a mat to the extent of one-sixteenth of an inch. Betent of one-sixteenth of an inch. Be-sides, the dust picture could be rubbed off the glass by pressing the fingers against it, and it yet bears the finger marks of persons who have thus tested its vulnerability. How did it happen to come there? Scientists puzzled over it for a long while, but could not solve the problem. Then it was agreed that it must be due to the action of the elec-tricity in the air, generated by suntricity in the air, generated by sun-light. HOW ELECTRICITY AFFECTS OLD

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therefore made a perfect copy on the glass of the original picture behind it. This went on for eight years before the perfect postrait was formed. Such pictures are liable to be formed in any household, therefore persons possessing old glass-covered photographs which may have bung in direct sunlight, should remove the glass and examine it carefully to see if any electric dust pictures have been formed. The pictures will be found naturally on the inner side of the glass. They resemble a daguerrotype in appearance and ble a daguerrotype in appearance and when discovered should immediately be placed between two glass plates to prevent the picture being rubbed away by the fingers of careless observers.

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No. 8-For Eureka, Payson,
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5:00 p.m.

No. 5-For Eureka, Payson, Provo and all intermediate points 5-00 p.m. No. 3-For Ogden and West 11:45 p.m. No. 1-For Ogden and West 11:45 p.m.

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No. 4—From Ogden and the
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